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SUBJECT: AMERICAN CORNER SPRING SEMESTER WRAP-UP

1. Summary: Post programming at the two American Corners in Kuwait was wrapped-up with the completion of the spring 2005 academic semester. Emboffs, Fulbright scholars and visitors were programmed at both of the American Corners in Kuwait. Programming involved informal lectures, presentations and discussions on American culture, history or policy. The only Kuwaiti university without an American Corner has approached the Embassy, unsolicited, for its own. Summer and fall programming is being planned. End Summary.

American Corner at Kuwait University

2. The American Corner at Kuwait University opened on January 10, 2005 in the building of the College of Social Sciences and is known at Kuwait University as the American Studies Unit.

3. The following talks were held at the American Studies Unit at Kuwait University (Date, topic and speaker):

March 27, 2005 - "Iraqi Elections, the View from Basra" - Mark Stroh, Embassy Information Officer

April 2, 2005 - "Info USA: Internet Information Resources" - May Katkhuda, IRC director

April 24, 2005 - "American Folk Music" - Dr. Lisa Urkevich, U.S. Fulbright Scholar

May 1, 2005 - "Countering Misinformation" - Todd Leventhal, Chief of the IIP Counter-Misinformation office

May 8, 2005 - "American Music: The Blues" - Sam Werberg, Embassy Economic Officer

American Corner at AUK

4. The American Corner at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) opened on May 9, 2005 in the AUK campus library. The American Corner overlooks the Gulf from its second floor glass-enclosed location within the library.

5. The following talks were held at the American Corner at AUK (date, topic and speaker):

May 15, 2005 - "The U.S.-Kuwait Business Relationship" - Peter Alois, Embassy Counselor for Commercial Affairs (FCS)

May 21, 2005 - "Envisioning Iraq's Future: Developing an Alternative View" - Dr. Phebe Marr, Senior Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace

Future Topics

6. PAS Kuwait has tentatively lined up Emboffs or others to speak during this summer and fall semesters on topics including the following, and will certainly add speakers and other unique programming at our American Corners: "The American Political System," "American Sports: Baseball, America's Pastime," "American Sports: Football in the South," "Arab-Americans," "Islam in America," and "Study in the U.S.A."

7. One key element of American Corner programming in Kuwait is to include media coverage of the events when appropriate. During this past semester, five of the seven events received significant press coverage from all eight of Kuwait's daily newspapers-five Arabic, three English. A local journalist who recently interviewed Post's Information Officer also asked several questions on the American Corners, demonstrating media interest in the corners.

Comment

8. The American Corners in Kuwait are a great tool with which we have increased contact between the Embassy and the

youth and student audience in Kuwait. American Corners allow Embassies the opportunity to engage in public speaking and offer Kuwaiti students the unique opportunity to speak with Americans on diverse topics ranging from American culture to business to politics. The Corners allow the Embassy as a whole to work with PAS in increasing Kuwaiti understanding of American society and values and provides a venue where PAS can get Post's message out on key MPP goals (five of the seven events received significant media coverage). PAS Kuwait is exploring the possibility of establishing an American Corner at the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), the lone university in Kuwait without an American Corner, which has approached the Embassy, unsolicited, to express its interest in hosting an American Corner. We are also exploring the possibility of opening corners in one or more of the Kuwaiti public libraries located outside of the city center.

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